

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS OF FEBRUARY 2ND, 1939.

The Board of Public Works met in the office of the Governor, State House, Annapolis, Maryland, on Thursday, February 2nd, 1939.

Present:

Herbert R. O'Connor, Governor.  
J. Millard Tawes, Comptroller.  
Hooper S. Miles, Treasurer.

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This was the first meeting of the Board of Public Works since the Inauguration of Governor O'Connor, and the qualifying of Mr. Tawes as State Comptroller. Governor O'Connor as Chairman presided.

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On motion of Mr. Miles, seconded by Mr. Tawes, Joseph O'C. McCusker was elected Secretary to the Board.

The continuance of Ellen C. Ehle as stenographer was approved.

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The Board took up for consideration several questions in connection with the erection of the new State Office Building in Annapolis.

It was agreed that some action would have to be taken with regard to the Annapolis Armory, which is on the Office Building site, and that whatever legislation was necessary, an effort would be made to obtain it at the present meeting of the General Assembly.

It was also agreed that some direction should be secured from the General Assembly as to the State offices to be housed in the new State Office Building.

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It was agreed to accept the estimate of the Davis Construction Company, in the amount of \$46,195.10 for completing the fourth floor of the building, so that all of the floors would be available for use as offices of State Departments to be transferred to Annapolis.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter received from the Architects for the new State Office Building, asking authority to change the location of drinking fountains from the public space in both the Treasurer's Office and the Comptroller's Office to the inside of the work rooms, so that the employees would not have to go from the main room to the public space for drinking water, at the additional expense of \$88.00.

The request was approved.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from the Architects for the new State Office Building, advising that new steam guages for the boilers at the existing State Power Plant should be furnished and installed, and quoting a price of \$280.00 they received from Charles T. King, Inc., the contractor now doing the work at the State Power Plant.

The Board approved the purchase and installation of the new guages at the price indicated.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter received from the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, relative to telephone service for the new State Office Building in Annapolis.

It was agreed that it was impossible at this time to determine the service necessary for the new State Office Building, but that it would be desirable that each Department to be located in the new building have its own direct telephone service rather than service through a central switch board.

A letter addressed to the Board by Mrs. Bertha A. Winchester, 3024 Brighton Street, Baltimore, who is interested in a concession for the sale of candy, magazines and newspapers in the new State Office Building, was read.

The Board decided it was not willing at this time to consider any applications for concessions in the new building.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a communication from Charles E. Gates, who proposed to furnish all material and labor and point up all the marble work in the State House for the sum of \$372.00.

The Secretary was requested to confer with Mr. E. Lee Kries, Chief Engineer, and secure a detailed statement of the amount of work to be done and to also ascertain if it would be possible to employ a man for this work on a daily wage basis rather than give a contract for a lump sum for the work.

The Board approved a request of Mr. F. W. Besley, State Forester, as covered in his letter of January 26th, 1939, for authority to purchase three tracts of land in Garrett County, purchased at tax sale on December 16th, for the sum of \$330.00.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a resolution passed by the Board of Managers of Springfield State Hospital, asking that approval be granted to the payment to Mike Grant of the sum of \$28.00, covering damages sustained to an automobile owned by Grant which was in collision with an automobile truck owned by Springfield State Hospital.

The Board approved the request and authorized the payment out of an appropriate item of the budget of Springfield State Hospital.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from the Conservation Department, requesting authority to charge from its books as uncollectible certain bad checks aggregating \$47.00 and an account against Captain E. O. Townsend, former Chief Inspector of the Commission, of \$50.00, covering travelling expenses. The bad checks cover oyster tax paid by persons who are out of business at this time, with considerable effort having been made by the Conservation Department to effect collection. Captain Townsend is at this time a patient at the Eastern Shore State Hospital and it is unlikely that he will ever recover.

Under the circumstances, the Board approved the request that these items be written off by the Conservation Department as uncollectible.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board communications from the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, requesting authority to charge off the books of his office certain amounts covering fines which it has been determined are uncollectible. These fines were imposed in 1932, 1933 and 1934. Evidence to show that all efforts to effect collection of the amounts were exhausted was submitted, and further that the State Law Department under date of January 3rd, recommended to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles that he request the Board of Public Works to authorize the writing off of the accounts as uncollectible.

In view of the circumstances the request was approved.

*Comptroller*

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter addressed to Honorable Wm. C. Walsh, Attorney General, by Mr. Edgar A. Poe, Jr., relative to corporation taxes due the State by the Baltimore Company for the year 1936. Mr. Poe indicated that there was some doubt about the liability of the corporation for taxes, but that he was able to obtain an offer from two of the Directors of the corporation to settle for \$1,800.00. Mr. Poe recommended the acceptance of the offer and Mr. Hugh A. Meade, Mr. Poe's successor, advised the Secretary to the Board of Public Works that he had reviewed the situation and that he was in agreement with Mr. Poe's views as to settlement.

In view of the circumstances, the Board approved settlement of the account for the sum of \$1,800.00.

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The Board took up for consideration several Budget Amendments where its approval was necessary under the Budget Law. --

The Budget Amendment submitted by the State Auditor, covering increases in salaries of Assistant State Auditors and the Stenographer-Secretary was disapproved for the reason that the Governor in the preparation of the Budget submitted to the Legislature for the fiscal years 1940 and 1941 disallowed all requests for salary increases over salaries already authorized for the fiscal year 1939.

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The Budget Amendment submitted by the Maryland State Penal Farm, showing an increase in salary of Dentist, in the amount of \$240.00, with a corresponding decrease in the amount allowed for Supervisors, was approved, because of the fact that arrangements had been made for the Dentist to work two days a week at the Institution instead of one day as heretofore.

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The Budget Amendment submitted by Maryland Training School for Boys, showing an increase in salary for Chauffeur, in the amount of \$35.71, was approved, for the reason that this does not represent an increase in salaries of chauffeurs, but takes care of salary for a substitute engaged from time to time when one is necessary.

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The Budget Amendment submitted by the Maryland Agricultural Society was approved. This amendment does not involve salaries, but is a re-arrangement of the expense items of the Society.

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The Budget Amendment submitted by the Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds to provide for a Nurse at the Mansion, showing an allotment for that position of \$370.00 was approved.

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A Budget Amendment submitted by Maryland Training School for Colored Girls showing a decrease of \$100.00 in salary of Carpenter and re-arrangement of several expense items, as explained in the amendment, was approved.

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A Budget Amendment submitted by the State Department of Education, showing an increase of \$100.00 in allowances for Special Payments and revision of 3 expense items in the Budget, was approved.

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A Budget Amendment submitted by the Maryland Tuberculosis Sanatorium, showing total increases of \$4,100.00 and decreases in like amount, dated February 2nd, 1939, was approved.

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A Budget Amendment submitted by Cheltenham School for Boys was considered. As this amendment attempts to increase certain salaries in 1939 to a point where such salaries would exceed salaries included in the budget for the fiscal years 1940 and 1941 it was decided that the amendment should be disapproved, but returned to the School for revision, so that it will include no changes in salaries

where the amounts provided for the positions involved in 1940 and 1941 budgets are exceeded.

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There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

*Joseph A. McCluskey*  
Secretary.